

Animal Health Update

News from the Wisconsin State Veterinarian

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection • Division of Animal Health • 608-224-4872 • animals@wisconsin.gov



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Continuing education opportunity for humane officers and humane society personnel

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Understanding, Investigating and Prosecuting Animal Abuse Continuing education opportunity offered for law and officers, humane officers, animal control staff

Those working in animal care and control sometimes find themselves in what can be unfamiliar territory. An animal abuse case might morph into domestic abuse, and either way, they may end up testifying in court.

Understanding, Investigating and Prosecuting Animal Abuse, a seminar for humane, law and animal control officers and humane society personnel, will be offered in Madison Wednesday, March 25, by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to help prepare them for these roles. The seminar will run 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, 4402 E. Washington Ave. It is targeted to humane and animal control officers, humane society staff, and law officers. **Registration is due by Friday, March 13.**

The seminar topics:

Understanding the Psychology of Animal Abuse and Neglect: Who Harms Animals and Why? will examine the expanding role that humane societies and animal care/control agencies play in addressing the connection between cruelty to animals and crimes against humans. The discussion will include all form of animal abuse and neglect, including hoarding and blood sports.

Animal CSI: Forensic Investigation of Animal Cruelty and Veterinary Forensics will cover the use of forensics to investigate animal abuse, including forensic examination of the crime scene and animals and forensic testing that is available. Unique findings in animals and package the case will be presented.

Case Packaging and Courtroom Presentation of Evidence in Animal Cruelty Cases will help animal care and control professionals prepare for involvement in civil criminal court cases, adversarial proceedings that are often foreign to them. The session will provide an overview of what is expected of expert witnesses and of direct witnesses who have observed conditions first-hand, and common techniques used to strengthen or undermine testimony.

Instructors will be Melinda Merck, DVM, Senior Director of Veterinary Forensic Sciences with the ASPCA, and Randall Lockwood, PhD, Senior Vice President for Anti-Cruelty Field Services with the ASPCA. More information about the instructors' credentials, as well as directions to the hotel and other information, is available on [our website](#).

Cost for the seminar is \$60, including lunch. Continuing education credits are available. To register, contact [Gena Goldade](#), 608-224-4889, or go to our website. For more information about the content of the seminar, contact [Yvonne Bellay, DVM](#), state humane veterinarian, 608-224-4888.

Please note that we are offering two versions of this seminar on two consecutive days. Only the March 25 will be targeted to this particular audience.

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